

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle comprising: a frame configured to define an enclosure suited to accommodate and removably hold at least one of a plurality of appliance units; a utility chassis configured and arranged within the frame; the utility chassis including a plurality of clusters each with different types of connectors suited to provide access to utilities, the different types of connectors being in relative positions within associated ones of the clusters in a manner that is identical for each of the clusters, at least one of the connectors of one of the clusters being arranged to enable connection of the at least one of the appliance units with at least one of the utilities.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising removable guides arranged to divide the frame into areas, which are each configured and arranged to accommodate and removably hold a respective ones one of the plurality of appliance units.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the frame is configured and arranged to connect to another frame adjacent thereto.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 3, wherein the utility chassis is positioned to support flow through of the utilities to or from the adjacent frame.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the plurality of connectors complement connectors of the at least one of the appliance units to mate with each other to enable the at least one of the appliance units to operate.

Claim 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the utility chassis is configured to provide access to utilities selected from the group consisting of electric, gas, water, drainage, steam, vacuum, air, communication based utilities and any combination thereof.

Claims 13-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising a disconnect device configured to allow uninterrupted flow of the at least one utility as required by the at least one of the appliance units to enable operation and to safely prevent further release of the at least one utility that would otherwise occur upon disengagement of the at least one of the appliance units.

Claims 22-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 28, including covers and wherein the frame and the appliance unit include means to removably attach the covers thereto, the covers being selected from the group consisting of form fitting covers and front facade panels.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein at the connectors of each of the clusters are quick-connect sockets configured to couple or mate with plugs of the appliance units so that once the appliance units are inserted into the frame in appropriate position, the quick-connect sockets couple or mate with the plugs to enable access to the utilities.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising a support structure selected from the group consisting of a structural base, legs and casters to render support and to which is securely fixed the frame.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, further comprising an appliance unit secured within the enclosure of the frame and arranged to access at least one of the utilities via at least one of the connectors of one of the clusters.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein each of the clusters is equipped with shut-off valves or electrical breakers to shut off applicable ones of the utilities and quick disconnect devices to disconnect the appliance units from the utilities.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 28, wherein each of the clusters has two cluster portions each with respective groups of the connectors, the shut-off valves being arranged to shut off the applicable utilities of one of the cluster portions independently of the other of the cluster portions.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 28, wherein each of the clusters has two cluster portions each

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with respective groups of the connectors, the shut-off valves being arranged to shut off the applicable utilities of both of the cluster portions.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a plurality of bays each being associated with respective ones of the clusters, further comprising a plurality of appliance units within different ones of the bays, each of the appliance units being configured to be operational if moved into any of the bays by accessing appropriate ones of the utilities via the clusters associated with whichever of the bays the appliance units are in.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 31, wherein the appliance units are configured to access different ones of the utilities from that of each other to operate.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle of claim 27, wherein the appliance unit accesses a plurality of the utilities simultaneously via the one of the clusters.